

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner cancel Claims 1-40, which were previously presented and entered, without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue these claims in a related application.

Claims 41-44 were previously presented in an Amendment dated July 24, 2006 and were not entered by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner cancel Claims 41-44 without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue these claims in a related application.

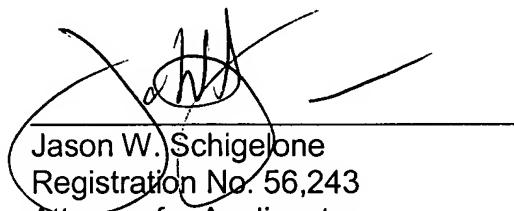
Claims 45-64 are presented by virtue of the present Amendment. No new matter has been added. Support for the newly-added claims may be found throughout the specification and in paragraphs 198-206.

New claims are drawn to various embodiments of the present invention including bent wire stents having integrally formed barbs. The stent wire is bent "such that the at least one barb points in a predetermined direction." See, e.g., Claims 45 and 58. In contrast, prior art references such as Chuter (U.S. Patent No. 6,849,087) teach that the barbs can be bent to point them in their ultimate direction. Bending the barbs can induce undesirable strains in the stent; a problem that is addressed by the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the newly presented claims are patentably distinct over the prior art.

SUMMARY

Applicants believe that the present claims are patentable and that the application is in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner grant early allowance of the application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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